



January 15, 2013

The Honorable Michael H. Michaud
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1902

Dear Congressman Michaud:

This responds to your December 14 letter to Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe, cosigned by Representative Chellie Pingree, regarding U.S. Postal Service retail operations in the state of Maine.

Thank you for sharing your comments. As you are aware, the Postal Service recently announced a new strategy to keep the nation's smallest Post Offices open for business, while providing a framework to achieve significant cost savings as part of the plan to return the organization to financial stability.

The Post Office Structure Plan (POST Plan) matches Post Office retail hours to each community's unique mailing habits and postal needs by analyzing factors such as an individual Post Office's mail volume, foot traffic, and location and input from community members, via surveys and community meetings. Individual communities are currently being assessed as part of this effort, and in your December letter, you inquired about the status of Post Offices in various Maine island communities, including Long Island, Chebeague, North Haven, Islesboro, Cranberry Isles, and Swans Island.

I am pleased to report that, following a full POST Plan evaluation, the six Maine Post Offices referenced in your correspondence will be designated as Part-Time Post Offices (PTPO) as part of POST Plan implementation. As information, a PTPO is a retail unit serving a very rural or isolated area that offers six-hours of window service hours per day and is staffed by a Postal Service employee. As a part of evaluating the postal needs of Maine's island communities, the Postal Service additionally identified the Islesford Post Office as an additional Maine island community that will also be designated as a PTPO.

Please know that the U.S. Postal Service is committed to serving rural America and to preserving the role of the Postal Service in every American community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Silina", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Kate Silina
Government Relations Representative